

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW GENUS OF ANGUID LIZARDS FROM HAITI.¹

BY DORIS M. COCHRAN.

The island of Haiti is truly the land of surprising novelties for the zoological explorer. The latest collection to be made on that island is one by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, traveling under the Swales fund, and the value of his work is already becoming apparent in the finding of a new genus of that peculiar group of lizards, the Anguidae.

Wetmorena, new genus.

Diagnosis.—No lateral fold; limbs four, tetradactyle; no ear-opening.

This genus is similar to *Sauresia* and to *Celestus* in having four fairly well-developed limbs. It differs from both in having no external ear-opening. In some species of *Celestus* the ear-opening is quite small, and in *Wetmorena* the diminution of this ear-opening is carried to its final stage, as befits the probable burrowing habits of this creature.

I take pleasure in naming this genus for Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Wetmorena haetiana, new species.

Type.—U. S. N. M. No. 72600, collected on Morne Cabaio, Massif de la Selle, Haiti, on April 10, 1927, by Dr. A. Wetmore, at an altitude of 7500 feet above sea level.

Description of the Type.—Head not distinct from neck; snout short and broad; canthus rostralis rounded; loreal region slightly concave; no ear-opening; an azygous prefrontal, broader than long, in contact with the entire anterior border of the frontal, separated from the rostral by two pairs of shields; frontal longer than broad; the parietal on each side separated from the frontal and supraorbitals by a row of three shields; three consecutive shields between the nasal and the preocular, the second in contact with the azygous prefrontal; infraorbital wedged in between fifth and sixth upper labials; four large chin-shields on each side, the first and second

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in contact with lower labials. Body somewhat elongate, subcylindrical; 40 scales around the body, dorsals with about 10 heavy striae (almost amounting to fine keels) to a scale; laterals less heavily striated. Limbs short but stout, the front one much shorter than the head; digits four, very short, claws retractile. Tail long, reproduced in the type, about two-thirds as thick as the body.

Dark olive-gray above, the head, particularly at the scale sutures, spotted heavily with black; about ten more or less regular black lines running from occiput to the end of the tail, made up of the darkened lateral edges of the dorsal scale-rows; sides and belly lustrous black with many small blue-white irregular marks which tend on the sides to be in rows, and which tendency is even more pronounced on the sides of the neck and on the chin, where the anterior portions of the chin-shields become blue-white. The sides of the head and temporal region are black, with an occasional lighter area on the labials.

Paratypes.—There are four other specimens taken at the same time and place as the type. These range in size from the very young up to the partly grown, while the type itself is apparently fully adult. This series offers a remarkably complete picture of the various stages of growth. The scalation of the paratypes resembles that of the type, while the coloration is likewise very similar, only varying slightly in the strength of pigment of the dorsal dark lines.

MEASUREMENTS.

	72600 (Type)	72601	72602	72603	72604
Head and body.....	90 mm.	82 mm.	61 mm.	58 mm.	38 mm.
Tail.....	60 “	80 “	58 “	—	36 “
	(reproduced)	(reproduced)			
Width of head.....	12 mm.	11.5 mm.	8 “	7.5 “	5 “
Fore limb.....	13 “	12 “	9 “	8 “	6 “
Hind limb.....	19 “	17 “	13 “	12 “	8 “
Axil to groin.....	55 “	53 “	38 “	35 “	33 “

Remarks.—The Haitian *Sauresia sepsoides* is most similar to *Wetmorena haetiana*. The head scalation in the two species is very much alike, the absence of an external ear-opening in *haetiana* being the only striking feature of the head structure itself by which they may be told apart.

But in bodily proportions a considerable difference may be noted at once; *Sauresia sepsoides*, while a much smaller lizard, is much more elongate in body and has more delicate legs than the larger and stockier species which I am just describing. The number of scale-rows around the body, and the degree of striation in the dorsal scales, are likewise other differences which can not be overlooked.

In coloration a vast difference is apparent at once. In *sepsoides*, the ventral surface is immaculate yellowish, while in *haetiana* this surface is black, spotted with irregularly shaped blue-white markings. In *sepsoides*, the slight amounts of dark pigment appearing in the dorsal scales are found in the central region of each scale, but in *haetiana* all the dark pigment is concentrated at the lateral regions of each scale, leaving the central portion conspicuously paler.